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## BOSS RUEF'S CONFESSION

### Text of His Statement to San Francisco Court.

Here is the verbatim statement made in court by Abraham Ruef, wherein the indicted boss pleads guilty to the charge of extortion, and expresses himself repentant of wrongdoing and eager to make reparation:

"If your Honor please, with the permission of the court I desire to make a statement. I do so only after a short consultation with my attorneys, to whom I have only within the last half-hour disclosed my determination, and against their expressed protest. I take this occasion to thank them for their services, fidelity and friendship. Notwithstanding the court's finding yesterday that this trial might safely be carried on without serious injury to my health, physical or mental, I wish to assure you that my personal condition is such that I am at the present time absolutely unable to bear for two or three months daily the strain of an actual trial of this case, the constant, continual, nightly preparation therefor, the necessary consultation and conversation with my attorneys in regard thereto, to say nothing of other cares and responsibilities. Moreover, the strain of these proceedings upon those whom I hold nearest and dearest of all on earth has been so grave and severe that as a result of these prosecutions their health has all been undermined, they are on the verge of immediate collapse, and their lives are now actually in the balance.

**TELLS OF DOWNFALL.**  
"I have occupied a somewhat prominent position in this city of my birth, in which I have lived all my life, where are all my ties and interests, whence when the time shall come I hope to pass into the eternal sleep. I have borne an honored name. In my private and in my professional life there has been no stain. In my public affiliations, until after the municipal campaign of 1905 and the election of the present Board of Supervisors, the abhorrent charges of the press to the contrary notwithstanding, no action of mine ever gave just ground for adverse criticism or deserved censure; but the assault of the press and their failure to credit honesty of purpose, a desire to hold together a political organization which has been built up with much effort, the means of holding them, did after the election of this Board of Supervisors in a measure influence me and the high ideals for which I had theretofore striven. During the past few weeks I have thought deeply and often of this situation, its causes and conditions.

"To offer excuses now would be folly. To make an effort at some expiation for the public good is, however, more than possible. To assist in making the system which dominates our public men and corrupts our politics will be a welcome task. I have decided that whatever energy or abilities I possess for the future shall be devoted, even in the humblest capacity, to restoring the ideals which have been lowered—shall, as soon as opportunity be accorded, be reenlisted on the side of good citizenship and integrity. May it be allotted to me at some time hereafter to have at least some small part in the re-establishing on a clear, sane basis, a plane of high civic morality and just reciprocal relations between the constantly struggling constituent elements of our governmental and industrial life.

"In the meantime, I begin by earnestness of purpose, a purpose to make the greatest sacrifice which can befall a human being of my disposition to make, to acknowledge whatever there may have been of wrong or mistake, and so far as may be within my power to make it right. I reached this final determination last night after careful reflection and deliberation. Where duty calls I intend to follow, whither hereafter the path of my life and however unpleasant and painful may be the result. I make this statement so that the court and the whole world may know at least the motives which have guided me in the step I am about to take.

"As an earnest I have determined to make a beginning. I am not guilty of the offense charged in this indictment. I ask, now, however, that this jury be dismissed from further consideration of this case. I desire to withdraw my plea of not guilty heretofore entered and to enter the contrary plea, and at the proper time submit to the court further suggestions for its consideration."

**THE SCENE IN COURT.**  
SAN FRANCISCO, May 16.—Abraham Ruef created a great sensation in the courtroom by pleading guilty of extortion. He declared himself willing to confess and place at the disposal of the authorities all knowledge in his possession of municipal irregularities, which would implicate many prominent men beside Mayor Schmitz.

Throughout the proceedings he has maintained a confident and arrogant demeanor. But, as time passed, he began to show signs of weakening. His face has been marked with lines of suffering, and he had been anxious and troubled for some days previous to his unexpected acknowledgment of guilt.

The confession was made in Judge Dunne's courtroom, in the Temple Sherwin. He came before the judge showing evidences of having passed a sleepless night.

A private conference was asked for and permitted with his counsel, Ach and Shortridge, Judge Dunne placing his chambers at their disposal. Ruef

had warned the attorneys what he meant to do, and they endeavored to dissuade him, feeling confident that he would be acquitted. During their private controversy, Ruef, who was weak and nervous, swooned, and brandy had to be administered before he revived.

When they returned to the courtroom, Ach and Shortridge both asked permission to retire from the case, explaining that they had had irreconcilable differences with their client, and the permission was granted.

Ruef then arose and said that he desired to make a statement, having disclosed this intention to his counsel half an hour before. He then confessed that he was no longer able to bear the mental and physical strain of the trial. As he talked he drank water constantly, the glass being refilled by the bailiff, and he wiped his face nervously with his handkerchief.

His confession was read from a manuscript. During the reading his voice trembled and his eyes filled with tears. He reviewed his past history, expressing a wish to reform, "to reenlist on the side of good citizenship and integrity." He had reached this final determination after careful deliberation and reflection. He said in conclusion:

"I now ask that this jury be dismissed from further consideration of the case. I desire to withdraw my plea of not guilty and to enter the contrary plea, and at the proper time to submit to the court further suggestions for its consideration."

When he finished he almost collapsed. The indictment was read that he might change his plea of not guilty to guilty. In this he was formally charged with extortion in the case of the Delmonico restaurant. When asked by the clerk, "What is your plea?" he replied, almost inaudibly, "Guilty."

The jury was then discharged, and sentence was postponed by Judge Dunne for thirty days, at the request of District Attorney Langdon.

### FROM MAUI TO THE KONA COAST

(Continued from Page One)

sugar making was watched in the various processes at the new Wailuku mill and the children of the Wailuku school gave an exhibition of patriotic exercises unanimously decided by the visitors as the best they had seen anywhere in their lives. The welcome address to the party was delivered by a little Chinese girl, this fact adding to the impression made by her remarks that in Hawaii there was no class line and no race line, but that all were Americans despite the color of the skin or the accident of birth.

The wonders of Iao valley were thoroughly explored by the majority of the party, others going to the formal opening of the Waihee-Waikapu ditch, which has been two years in the making and which will bring under cultivation twelve hundred acres more of the Maui plain.

In the evening a dance was arranged in the Wailuku armory, many of the visitors taking the opportunity of meeting the young people of the town.

**DOWN INTO THE DEPTHS.**

Thursday morning the party inspected the Puunene mill and were then whisked across country in a special train to the Kihai underground pumping station. Here, at a depth of 325 feet, the visitors watched the mighty machinery pulsing, the heart of the plantation, lifting the waters to the surface to force the red soil into fertility. This subterranean pumping plant impressed more than anything else upon the Congressmen the wonderful adaptations adopted by the sugar men of the Territory in the creation of their plantations and the scientific methods employed here to make use of every available means of increasing the productiveness of the land.

After lunch at the Puunene Club, served delightfully, the party took the train again for Paia, where carriages were awaiting to carry them on their way up the mountain. After a drive of several miles, passing through the pretty little hamlet of Makawao, the carriages were met by men with saddle horses, and all mounted to continue the climb. As height after height was reached the air became cooler and this ride to Olinda proved to be one of the pleasantest features of the various Maui excursions. At Olinda the party received a hearty greeting and preparations were made to make the members comfortable and at home until the hour for recommencing the ascent arrived. A few members of the party decided to continue their climb that evening to rejoin those members of the party who had gone on direct from Kahului for the crater in company with the boys of the National Guard who had come from Honolulu to pitch the shelter tents at the summit and flicker any needed messages with their heliograph to their comrades watching for the flashes down below on the plains. It may be well to mention here that the services of the militia boys were invaluable and highly appreciated, the detail proving most useful in looking after the comforts of the party on the morning of the ascent.

**ABOVE THE CLOUDS.**  
Before daybreak on Friday morning the ascent was made by the members of the party, seventy-one in all being at the summit at sunrise, the largest party which has ever made the ascent of Haleakala. To attempt to describe the glories of that sunrise would be futile. The most eloquent of the many statesmen in the party found himself at a loss for words to describe the effect produced by the combination of billowy clouds rolling and twining a thousand feet below, of the great blazing sun which shot above the horizon almost without warning, of the dazzling lights and shadows deep down in the cone-dotted crater and playing with kaleidoscopic effect upon the gnarled steep slopes of the crater walls. The guides, many of whom had made the ascent

of times, were delighted, stating that none had before seen "the house of the sun" under better conditions.

The ride up had not been the formidable undertaking feared by so many, and the varied reports of the hardships of the trail proved to have been most pleasantly exaggerated. Some of the ladies of the party who had never ridden a horse before, came over the trail like veterans, and the next day, the critical time, found not a member of the party any the worse for the trip.

**A FAREWELL LUAU.**  
Friday at noon saw the members of the party all safely returned at Olinda, where lunch was served. The return to the plains was made comfortably in carriages and on horseback, and the afternoon was spent in resting at the hospitable residences of the people of Paia and the neighborhood. In the evening a reception was given at the residence of Mr. Baldwin, at whose house a number of the party were entertained, and who proved to be a delightful host.

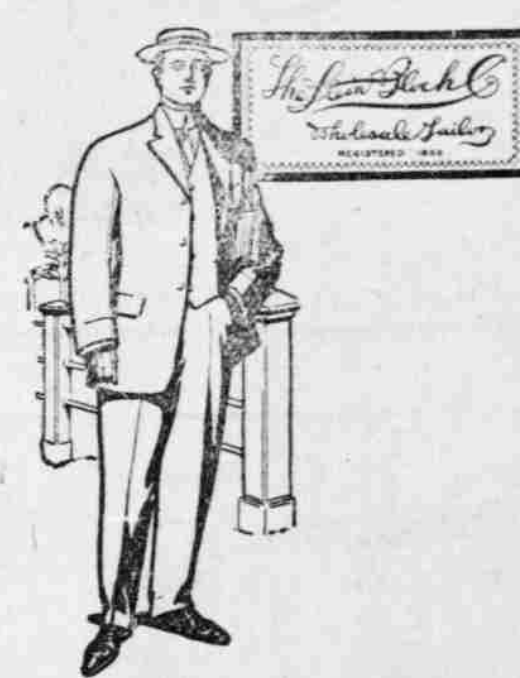
On Saturday, the last day on the island, the party were entertained at an elaborate luau at the fisheries at Kahului, Judge Kepokai making the welcoming speech to the luau and the farewell speech to mark the close of the too short visit.

During the stay of the Congressmen on Maui the various members of the party spoke in appreciation of the welcome extended them and the wonderful effect produced upon them by the richness of the island, the wonder of its varied scenery, the energy of its men and the hospitality of its residents, which had been extended to them from every hand, a hospitality which rang true and which produced a feeling of regret upon the members of the party that their time on the island was to be so short.

The sailing of the Claudine with the party from Kahului was marked by the most enthusiastic sendoff so far given the party, a barge of the citizens, including the majority of the committees, being towed out to the steamer to shout the last adieu. A farewell speech was made by Jim Coke, who had made himself a friend of each individual member of the party, and an answer was made by Congressman Cole. The Maui reception on the whole had been a spontaneous welcome and made the biggest kind of a hit with the visitors.

**THE KONA VISIT.**  
"Kona hospitality" will be a word to conjure with hereafter among those members of the Congressional party which made the drive through the beautiful Kona district on Sunday. The weather conditions could not have been better, the carriages which met the party at Napoosoo were many and comfortable, the drivers were kamaainas familiar with the district and able to keep their guests informed as to the industries and points of in-

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terest along the way, the route was lined with friendly residents whose aloha has sounded true and hospitality and welcome were showered upon the party all along the way.

The party landed from the Claudine after a delightful trip to Capt. Cook's monument in Kealahou bay, being greeted by a larger number of residents than might have been expected. After reembarquing the party crossed the bay to Napoosoo, taking carriages there for what proved to be a most enjoyable crosscountry drive.

The scenery all the way to Kailua was a revelation to the visitors, who were loud in their expressions of delight as each turn of the road presented new pictures to their view. There were several short stops made en route, the pineapple cannery, the okolehao distillery, the vanilla plantation and other interesting spots being explored. At the residence of E. H. Edwards, president of the Agricultural and Industrial Corporation of Hawaii, souvenirs of the visit in the form of wrapped up vanilla beans were distributed and refreshments were served. The picturesque surroundings of Mr. Edwards' home and the artistic decorations of the house itself were greatly admired.

At Houloua a dainty and satisfying luncheon was served, the schoolhouse being tastefully decorated for the occasion. Judge Matthewman presided at the feast as toastmaster, welcoming the visitors in the name of the people of Kona. A response was made by Congressman Graff, who made one of the best and most pointed addresses of the trip.

After expressing the pleasure the party felt at being the recipients of such a hearty welcome as had been extended by the people of Kona, the speaker began on broader grounds. In careful language he referred to the possibility of statehood for Hawaii, such having been brought up on several previous occasions. Such a hope was to be dismissed, he declared, for there was no possibility of statehood being given to Hawaii for at least the next fifty years.

"Could we afford to grant you statehood with at least fifty per cent. of your population Oriental, and at least seventy per cent. of your possible voting strength Oriental?" he demanded. "You have many serious problems to work out before the time comes to place the Hawaiian star on the flag. These problems you must work out by yourselves. There are some things in which the Congress can help you, but the more important questions for this Territory are those which will have to be worked out here and by the people here. There is no use in thinking of statehood under your present conditions and no use in promising you statehood."

On the part of the agriculturalists of Kona, W. W. Bruner delivered an excellent address on the needs of the district and the help that was wanted for diversified industries from Congress. This address was the most forceful that had so far been delivered

to the visitors and was listened to with a great deal of careful interest.

The other speaker of the banquet was Congressman Cole, who thanked the good ladies of Kona for the elaborate entertainment prepared for the party.

**SPEECHES AT KAILUA.**  
After luncheon the party proceeded to Kailua, where a few delightful hours were spent at the country seat of Prince Cupid. Here the members of the party had an opportunity of greeting the largest gathering of natives so far met with on any of their trips and short speeches were made by Congressmen Fitzgerald, Campbell and Norris, Prince Cupid and J. K. Nahale. This meeting was probably the most significant of any. The representatives of the American Congress addressed the Hawaiians on the grounds of the palace built by King Kalakaua, advising them in loyalty to the flag of their new country, congratulating them on their advances in patriotism and having their remarks interpreted into Hawaiian by the Delegate, the representative of the royalty of the past kingdom.

**HILO REACHED ON MONDAY.**

Kailua was left after dark and the run to Laupahoehoe made in good time, that landing being made by daybreak. Here the majority of the party landed, but, unfortunately, enough vehicles had not reached the place to convey the whole party overland to Hilo, as had been arranged. The result was that most of the party reboarded the Claudine and steamed to the city, which was reached shortly before noon. A welcoming committee boarded the steamer as soon as she arrived, and the various vessels in the harbor greeted the arrival of the party by dressing ship. The party were driven in hacks to the various resting places, the citizens throwing open their homes to the various members of the visiting party.

**VOYAGE MADE PLEASANT.**

Throughout the several trips made on the Claudine the members of the party were given the very best of treatment by Captain Parker and the members of his crew. From the captain down to the least of the stewards no opportunity was lost to make everyone on board as comfortable as possible, and the cheers given for the captain and the song sung in his honor by the members of the party at Kailua were sincere and expressive of the appreciation felt. It is at the request of more than half a dozen of the party that this public expression of the appreciation of the party to Captain Parker and his men is given.

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